

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, MX

SUBJ: STATUS OF BILATERAL CULTURAL RELATIONS

REF: MEXICO 8650 AND INMAN/BRIGGS TELCON 8/27/76

1. SOME INFORMATION REGARDING CLEARINGHOUSE PROPOSAL CONTAINED REFTEL

.
SHOULD BE NOTED THAT INFORMAL SESSIONS WITH MEXICANS INVOLVED IN PROJECT, BOTH ACADEMIC AND GOVERNMENTAL, HAVE BEEN FRUITFUL AND HAVE FURTHER REFINED IDEA FOR CLEARINGHOUSE CONCEPT. NEITHER SIDE AT CULTURAL COMMISSION MEETIN IN OCTOBER 1975 REALIZED THAT GROUNDWORK FOR PROJECT WOULD BE THIS LENGTHY, ALTHOUGH CAREFUL PLANNING WILL IMPROVE THE ORGANIZATIONAL QUALITY. THE FIRST PROJECT WILL PROBABLY BE DEVELOPMENT OF A GUIDE TO MEXICAN ARCHIVAL HOLDINGS RELATING TO US.-MEXICAN RELATIONS. AS THAT GETS UNDERWAY, THE CLEARINGHOUSE WILL BEGIN TO ADD OTHER PROJECTS AND FUNCTIONS AT A RELATIVELY CONSERVATIVE RATE.

2. ANOTHER MAJOR TOPIC OF COMMISSION WAS MEXICAN PARTICIPANTION IN US. BICENTENNIAL AND US. PARTICIPATION IN MEXICO'S CERVANTES FESTIVAL. CU ARRANGED ELIOT FELD BALLET FOR CERVANTINE FESTIVAL WHICH PROVED ENORMOUSLY SUCCESSFUL. FOR US. SIDE, GOM GAVE EMBASSY A GREEN LIGHT TO ARRANGE BICENTENNIAL PROGRAMS WITH COMMERCIAL EMPRESARIOS, WITH THE US.-MEXICO BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE TAKING TEN PERCENT OF GROSS SALES TO USE IN FUNDING BICENTENNIAL PROJECTS, SUCH AS SUPPORTING A CHAIR IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AT NATIONAL UNIVERSITY. SEVERAL EVENTS ALREADY HELD, INCLUDING DIZZIE GILLESPIE AND CARMEN MCRAE, AND THE PRESERVATION HALL JAZZ BAND. COMING UP ARE CHARLIE BYRD, STAN GETZ AND DAVE BRUBECK.

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ALSO PLANNED IS A SPECTACULAR FROM WALT DISNEY PRODUCTIONS.

MEANWHILE, MEXICO HAS BEEN COOPERATIVE IN STAGING PRESENTATIONS OR FURNISHING PERFORMERS FOR BICENTENNIAL EVENTS IN US.

3. FINAL MAJOR ITEM WAS LINCOLN/JUAREZ SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. FROM US. VIEWPOINT, PROGRAM OPERATES WELL. MEXICANS, HOWEVER, WANTED A ROLE IN SELECTION OF MEXICAN PARTICIPANTS. SINCE THIS WAS MEXICAN INITIATIVE, EMBASSY FELT IT SHOULD BE RAISED BY THEIR SIDE. UP TO NOW, FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS NOT CALLED MEETING OF AD HOC COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER THIS PROPOSAL AND HAS MADE NO ATTEMPT TO URGE A CHANGE IN POLICY.

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